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Notes. — The Smithsonian Institution has issued a reprint, in a single pamphlet, of two papers by Professor Otis T. Mason that were published in the *Smithsonian Reports* for 1876 and 1884: "The Latimer Collection of Antiquities from Porto Rico in the National Museum," and "The Guesde Collection of Antiquities in Point-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, West Indies."

In his preface to the reprint Professor Mason states that considerable literature has accumulated relating to the Greater and Lesser Antilles since the first publication of the papers. The number of collars known now amounts to one hundred, the number of zemes has been also greatly increased. The Guesde collection is easily identified with the Carib work of the continent of South America. The preface concludes with a list of publications relating to West Indian antiquities which contains thirteen titles.

In the *Proceedings of the Linnæan Societies of New South Wales* Mr. R. Etheridge, curator of the Australian Museum, describes the spear becket of New Caledonia. The beckets in the Australian Museum are from six to thirteen inches long and are of plaited cord, with an "eye" at one end and an "overhand" knot, or a "grummet head," at the other. The cord is a square or flat sinnet made from tightly twisted rush or grass, or a less tightly twisted beaten-bark string. Labillardière is quoted as authority for the statement that the beckets of New Caledonians were of cocoanut fibre and fish skin at the beginning of this century. Twelve beckets are figured in the five accompanying plates.

Mr. Etheridge describes also the "widow's cap" worn during the period of mourning by Australian women. It is of gypsum plaster, two or three inches in thickness, and varying in weight from four to fourteen pounds.

Mr. W. R. Harper gives an account of the exploration of aboriginal rock shelters at Port Hacking, Australia. Human skeletons and objects made by man were found. Two of the three shelters mentioned contained impressions of hands in red and black pigment.

The *Annual Report* of the director of the Field Columbian Museum for 1898–99 contains a number of valuable plates, a half dozen of which are of anthropologic interest. The list of accessions to the department of anthropology includes several groups of figures illustrating aboriginal industries and customs.

Dr. Ales Hrdlička presented before the annual meeting of the American Medico-Psychological Association, 1899, the results of his examination of the brain of an adult male Eskimo, a member of the party of six brought to New York in 1896 by Lieutenant Peary. In size and complexity of conformation the cerebrum indicated a degree of development equal to that of the average white person. The parts of the encephalon did not have the relative proportions that exist in the white brain. The frontal lobes were about equal in size to those of whites, while the portions posterior to the fissure of Rolando were considerably larger. The paper is illustrated by seven excellent plates.

In a reprint from the *Archives of Neurology and Psychopathology*, Vol. I, No. 4, 1898, we find a discussion by Dr. Hrdlička of the "Dimensions of the Normal Pituitary Fossa, or Sella Turcica, in the White and Negro Races, an anatomical study of fifty-seven normal skulls of white and sixteen normal skulls of colored individuals." Since marked enlargements of the pituitary body are of a pathogenic nature, it is considered desirable to determine the normal dimensions and the range of variation in its size. This can best be accomplished by measuring the pituitary fossa. The length, width, and depth of the fossa were measured, and a module derived similar to the skull module of Schmidt. The relation to the total size of the skull was obtained by multiplying this module by 1000 and dividing the result by the circumference of the skull, expressed in centimeters.

F. R.

GENERAL BIOLOGY.

Protoplasmic Streamings. — Martin Heidenhain[1] adds some very interesting observations to our knowledge of the remarkable phenomena of currents seen in so many vegetable cells. In the elongated cells of the hairs in the flowers of the pumpkin he studied especially the movements of the granules. In favorable specimens there are apparent gliding movements of the granules, even when the protoplasm seems quiet. Frequently, however, the protoplasm is actively moving in masses, producing those constant changes in the form and arrangement of the strands that join the central, nucleated region with the protoplasm lining the cell wall, that have been described by other observers. But even when there is, apparently, temporary rest of the protoplasm, the granules may move

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[1] Einiges über die sogenannten Protoplasma-Strömungen, *Sitz.-Ber. Phys.-Med. Gesell. Wurzburg*, 1898.